

## **Adoption Museum Project's History Initiative: Project Principles**

### Perspective

We acknowledge that all history is subjective. History narratives are shaped by the authors' identities, perspectives and positions in society. The History Initiative is no different. While our narrative is based on strong evidence and rigorous research, it is still constructed by individuals and an organization with a clear vision, purpose and principles.

### Social Justice

We construct history through a lens of social justice. Therefore, we commit to: being aware of our privilege and bias, amplifying marginalized voices and stories, involving people who have been negatively impacted by adoption to help create the work, naming root issues, revealing how adoption relates to individuals and other social systems, and designing for accessibility.

### Transparency

We make the internal workings of the History Initiative visible by sharing publicly the project's purpose, principles, leaders, collaborators and funders. We indicate content sources and explain key processes such as how we create original content, select content authored by others, curate the presentation of content.

### Collaboration

We believe that a history of adoption, told through a lens of social justice, can only be created collaboratively. To offer a more complete and accurate picture of adoption, we work with people who are directly involved in adoption, especially those who are negatively impacted and may not have had the opportunity to share their insights and institutional critiques; people who have diverse perspectives and experiences of adoption; and people who are part of systems related to adoption.

### Storytelling

We approach history as a method of storytelling concerned with human experience. It places individual stories within the arc of time and socio-political systems; draws upon a wide range of content including scholarly research, non-scholarly projects and personal narratives; and uses many forms of expression including text, images, film and audio. This is a living history, always changing as new stories, information and authors emerge.

### Intentional Growth

We value deep impact and sustainable work over audience size and funding. As a result, we will start small and pace our growth according to our principles, as well as our physical and emotional resources and practices including: self-care; authentic relationships; study, reflection, discussion and revision; thoroughness and professionalism.

### Integrity

We are accountable to ourselves, our collaborators, and everyone who uses the History Initiative for putting the principles described here into action. We are committed to practicing integrity in public and in private which will require honesty, courage, self-reflection, trust, and respect for the humanity of all people.